

2020 Lead Covered Agency NGDA Theme Annual Performance Report for

Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Theme

Geospatial Data Act of 2018 Section 756 Requirements

U.S. Department of Commerce

Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC)

March 19, 2021



Table of Contents

Acronyms	ii
2020 Geospatial Data Act Lead Covered Agency Annual Performance Report for Gove and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Theme	
Introduction to Geospatial Data Act Annual Reporting	1
Executive Summary	1
Theme Designated Points of Contact	1
NGDA Datasets in the FGDC Portfolio	2
FGDC Office of the Secretariat Portfolio Management Support	4
A. Geospatial Data Standards	5
NGDA Baseline Standards Inventory	6
Inventory Status	6
NGDA Datasets Not Included in the Baseline Standards Inventory	6
Initial Inventory Results	7
Methods Used by NGDA Agencies to Promote Standards for NGDA Datasets	8
FGDC Subcommittees and Working Groups Associated with the Theme	8
National and International Voluntary Consensus Standards Body Participation	9
International Geospatial Working Groups Supporting Standards	9
Other Activities Undertaken by Agencies to Support Standards	9
B. Nationwide Population of the Data Theme	11
NGDA Datasets in the FGDC Portfolio	12
Partnership Programs	12
Lifecycle Maturity Assessments	13
C. Establish Actions That Support the Goals and Objectives in NSDI Strategic Plan	15
D. Addressing User Needs	16
Appendix A: NGDA Use Cases	18
Introduction	18
Federal Data Strategy Use Cases	18
NGAC Use Cases	19
HIFLD Use Cases	19
GDA Communications Working Group Use Cases	19
Joint HIFLD/GeoPlatform Feedback Sessions	19
Other Types of User Feedback and Use Cases	20
Endnote References	21

Acronyms

Acronym	Definition	
FGDC	Federal Geographic Data Committee	
GDA	Geospatial Data Act	
LCA	Lead Covered Agency	
NGAC	National Geospatial Advisory Committee	
NGDA	National Geospatial Data Asset(s)	
NSDI	National Spatial Data Infrastructure	
OMB	Office of Management and Budget	
OS Second Assessment	Office of the Secretariat	
FGDC Agency Acronyms DHS	Department and Agency Department of Homeland Security	
_	·	
DHS-FEMA	Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency	
DOC	Department of Commerce	
DOC-Census	Department of Commerce, Census Bureau	
DOC-NOAA	Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	
DOD	Department of Defense	
DOD-A&S	Department of Defense, Acquisition & Sustainment	
DOD-USACE	Department of Defense, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers	
DOI	Department of the Interior	
DOI-BIA	Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs	
DOI-BLM	Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management	
DOI-BOEM	Department of the Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management	
DOI-BSEE	Department of the Interior, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement	
DOI-FWS	Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	
DOI-NPS	Department of the Interior, National Park Service	
DOI-USGS	Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey	
DOS	Department of State	
DOS-IBC	Department of State, International Boundary Commission	
DOS-IBWC	Department of State, International Boundary and Water Commission	
DOT	Department of Transportation	
DOT-BTS	Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics	
DOT-FAA	Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration	
GSA	General Services Administration	
HUD	Department of Housing and Urban Development	
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration	
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture	
USDA-FSA	U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency	
USDA-NASS	U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service	
USDA-NRCS	U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service	
USDA-USFS	U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service	
USEPA	Environmental Protection Agency	



2020 Geospatial Data Act Lead Covered Agency Annual Performance Report for Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Theme

Introduction to Geospatial Data Act Annual Reporting

As part of administering a National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) data theme, Section 756(b)(3)(E)(I) of the <u>Geospatial Data Act of 2018</u>¹ (GDA) requires a performance report to be submitted to the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC). These reports document "the activities relating to and implementation of the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, including progress in achieving the requirements under subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D)" of Section 756(b)(3).

This initial self-assessment serves as the baseline report to the FGDC covering the period of October 5, 2018, with the signing of the GDA, through Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, September 30, 2020. Subsequent reports will be developed annually and will span one fiscal year period. Lead covered agencies will ensure that one consolidated report is submitted to FGDC per NGDA data theme. This report will include a rating for each responsibility of "meets expectations," "made progress toward expectations," or "fails to meet expectations," as required by the GDA. A report template was developed to facilitate consistent self-assessments and consolidated reports. A summary and evaluation of the progress to achieve the requirements will be generated by FGDC and will be provided to the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) for comment. Summary reports with NGAC comments and responses will also become part of the biennial FGDC GDA report to Congress and will be available online.

It should be noted that the revised Circular A-16 is currently in development for release by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for use by the FGDC Community. The A-16 will provide direction for the FGDC on management of the GDA requirements. This reporting template may be revised for subsequent annual reports in response to revised policies or supplemental technical guidance.

Executive Summary

This baseline annual performance report marks the transition from managing the goals and objectives of the NGDA Theme Strategic Plans as required in OMB Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance,² to establishing plans to meet the requirements of the GDA. This baseline report for the Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Theme provides insights into ongoing theme strategic activities and cross-cutting FGDC portfolio management activities that align with the requirements of the GDA. In addition to activities supporting Theme Strategic Plan goals and objectives, this report covers key leadership in the areas of: managing geospatial data standards for NGDA Datasets and NGDA Themes; data population of NGDA Themes; support for strategic planning; support for user needs; and designated points of contacts responsible for implementing the NGDA Data Theme. This report has been developed using an NGDA Theme Lead consensus-driven report template that provides consistent reporting across all NGDA Themes.

Theme Designated Points of Contact

Section 756(b)(3)(E)(i) requires lead covered agencies to "designate a point of contact within the lead

covered agency who shall be responsible for developing, maintaining, coordination relating to, and disseminating data using the GeoPlatform," as part of administering the NGDA data theme.

In accordance with the current OMB Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance, NGDA Theme personnel play an ongoing, vital role in the operation and maintenance of a theme. They are individuals who provide interdepartmental leadership and coordination at the NGDA Theme level and work with NGDA Dataset Managers to facilitate, among other things, portfolio development including activities associated with standards and guidance.

Traditionally, these roles have been coordinated through lead covered agencies with the FGDC Office of the Secretariat (OS) and the NGDA Theme Lead assuming a majority of NGDA Theme responsibilities. Transitioning to meet specific GDA responsibilities provides opportunities for lead covered agencies to designate specific points of contact to coordinate an expanding portfolio of datasets across the NGDA Theme and for greater dissemination of data through the GeoPlatform.

Theme and agency points of contact provided in Table 1 below are maintained to meet requirements from the <u>A-16 Supplemental Guidance Roles and Responsibilities</u>.³ This information is kept up-to-date in the <u>NGDA Portfolio Community Resources Site</u>⁴ maintained for FGDC by the FGDC OS.

Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Theme Contacts		
Theme Lead (Co-Leads) ⁵ : Dierdre Bevington-Attardi, DOC-Census		
Executive Theme Champion(s): Deirdre Bishop, DOC-Census		

Table 1. Theme and Lead Covered Agency Points of Contact Involved in Theme Management.

NGDA Datasets in the FGDC Portfolio

The NGDA Datasets and the agencies listed in Table 2 are provided as the baseline of NGDA that currently populate the Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Theme. If the theme includes NGDA Datasets managed by non-covered agencies, they are shown in bold. Support for GDA requirements by these non-covered agencies is very important to the success of the themes. The official list of NGDA Portfolio Datasets⁶ is maintained on the GeoPlatform and is provided here filtered by the Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Theme.

Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Theme	Agency
NGDA Datasets	Agency
TIGER/Line Shapefile, 2019, Nation, U.S., 116th Congressional District National	DOC-Census
TIGER/Line Shapefile, 2019, 2010 nation, U.S., 2010 Census 5-Digit ZIP Code	DOC-Census
Tabulation Area (ZCTA5) National	
TIGER/Line Shapefile, 2010, Series Information File for the 2010 Census Block	DOC-Census
State-based Shapefile with Housing and Population Data	
TIGER/Line Shapefile, 2019, Series Information for the 2010 Census Public Use	DOC-Census
Microdata Area (PUMA) State-based	
TIGER/Line Shapefile, 2019, 2010 nation, U.S., 2010 Census Urban Area National	DOC-Census
TIGER/Line Shapefile, 2012, Series Information File for the 2010 Census Urban	DOC-Census
Growth Area (UGA) State-based Shapefile	
TIGER/Line Shapefile, 2012, Series Information File for the 2010 Census Voting	DOC-Census
District State-based (VTD) Shapefile	

Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Theme NGDA Datasets	Agency
TIGER/Line Shapefile, 2019, nation, U.S., Current American Indian/Alaska	DOC-Census
Native/Native Hawaiian Areas National (AIANNH) National	200 0011343
TIGER/Line Shapefile, 2019, nation, U.S., Current American Indian Tribal	DOC-Census
Subdivision (AITS) National	
TIGER/Line Shapefile, 2019, state, Alaska, Current Alaska Native Regional	DOC-Census
Corporation (ANRC) State-based	
Series Information File for the 2019 TIGER/Line Shapefile, 2010 Census Block	DOC-Census
State-based	
TIGER/Line Shapefile, 2019, Series Information for the Current Block Group	DOC-Census
State-based Shapefile	
Series Information for the 2019 Cartographic Boundary File Shapefile, Current	DOC-Census
Census Tract. 1:500,000	
TIGER/Line Shapefile, 2019, nation, U.S., Current Combined New England City	DOC-Census
and Town Area (CNECTA) National	
TIGER/Line Shapefile, 2019, nation, U.S., Current Combined Statistical Area (CSA)	DOC-Census
National	
TIGER/Line Shapefile, 2019, Series Information for the Current Consolidated City	DOC-Census
State-based Shapefile	
TIGER/Line Shapefile, 2019, nation, U.S., Current County and Equivalent National	DOC-Census
Shapefile	
TIGER/Line Shapefile, 2019, Series Information for the Current County	DOC-Census
Subdivision State-based Shapefile	
TIGER/Line Shapefile, 2019, Series Information for the Current Elementary	DOC-Census
School Districts State-based Shapefile	
TIGER/Line Shapefile, 2019, state, United States Virgin Islands, Current Estate	DOC-Census
State-based Shapefile (U.S. Virgin Islands only)	
HUD Entitlement Grantee Jurisdiction	HUD
International Boundary United States Mexico Minute 315	DOS-IBWC
TIGER/Line Shapefile, 2019, nation, U.S., Current Metropolitan Division National	DOC-Census
TIGER/Line Shapefile, 2019, nation, U.S., Current Metropolitan Statistical	DOC-Census
Area/Micropolitan Statistical Area (CBSA) National	
TIGER/Line Shapefile, 2019, nation, U.S., Current NECTA Division National	DOC-Census
TIGER/Line Shapefile, 2019, nation, U.S., Current New England City and Town	DOC-Census
Area (NECTA) National	
TIGER/Line Shapefile, 2019, Series Information for the Current Place State-based	DOC-Census
Shapefile	
TIGER/Line Shapefile, 2019, Series Information for the Current Secondary School	DOC-Census
Districts Shapefile State-based Shapefile	
TIGER/Line Shapefile, 2019, nation, U.S., Current State and Equivalent National	DOC-Census
TIGER/Line Shapefile, 2019, Series Information for the State Legislative District	DOC-Census
(SLD) Lower Chamber State-based Shapefile	
TIGER/Line Shapefile, 2019, Series Information for the Current State Legislative	DOC-Census
District (SLD) Upper Chamber State-based Shapefile	

Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Theme NGDA Datasets	Agency
TIGER/Line Shapefile, 2019, state, Puerto Rico, Current Subbarrio (Subminor Civil Division)	DOC-Census
TIGER/Line Shapefile, 2019, nation, U.S., Current Tribal Block Group National	DOC-Census
TIGER/Line Shapefile, 2019, nation, U.S., Current Tribal Census Tract National	DOC-Census
TIGER/Line Shapefile, 2019, Series Information for the Current Unified School Districts Shapefile State-based Shapefile	DOC-Census
United States Canada Boundary	DOS-IBC
BLM National Administrative Unit Boundary Polygons and Office Points	DOI-BLM

Table 2. Theme NGDA Datasets.

FGDC Office of the Secretariat Portfolio Management Support

Portfolio Management of NGDA Themes and Datasets is coordinated through FGDC OS and is designed to consistently align NGDA Themes with the requirements of the GDA, OMB Circular A-16, and A-16 Supplemental Guidance across all NGDA Themes (as previously stated, the revised Circular A-16 has not yet been released). Transparent portfolio content is provided through NGDA Communities and NGDA Data Theme Resource Pages within the GeoPlatform (geoplatform.gov). The FGDC OS facilitates a common management approach to improve efficiency and reduce duplication of effort associated with development of methods for meeting requirements.

The following content is maintained for all NGDA Themes and the official portfolio of NGDA Datasets.

Suite of NGDA Portfolio Documentation⁷

- Overview and NGDA Resources
- NGDA Theme Community Sites
- NGDA Theme Resource Pages
- NGDA Meetings

NGDA Portfolio Official Lists

- NGDA Dataset Portfolio
- NGDA Theme Leads
- NGDA Executive Champions

NGDA Assessments

- NGDA Lifecycle Maturity Assessments
- NGDA Baseline Standards Inventory

NGDA Reports

- Theme Strategic Plans
- Theme Implementation Plans
- Lifecycle Maturity Assessment Theme Summary & Dataset Reports

FGDC Technical Guidance

• Geospatial Metadata Resources (GeoPlatform, Data.gov, and NGDA Guidelines)

Table 3. NGDA Portfolio Management Suite.

A. Geospatial Data Standards

GDA Requirement	Section 756(b)(3)(A) Provide leadership and facilitate the development and implementation of geospatial data standards for the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, with a particular emphasis on a data content standard for the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme, including by— i. assessing existing standards; ii. identifying anticipated or needed data standards; and iii. developing a plan to originate and implement needed standards with relevant community and international practices— I. in accordance with Office of Management and Budget Circular A— 119, or any successor thereto; and II. consistent with or as a part of the plan described in subparagraph (B);		
Lead Covered		☐ Meets expectations	
Agency Self- Assessment	Check One:		
Self-Assessment Summary Comments	Check One: ☐ Meets expectations ☐ Fails to meet expectations ☐ Fails to meet expectations ☐ The Governmental Units Theme LCA and members participated in the FGDC's Standards Working Group to develop the NGDA Baseline Standards Content and Metadata Inventory for the 37 NGDAs in this theme. Participation in this working group and others focused on the analysis of the GDA (i.e., GDA Working Group, Tiger Team) to meet Subparagraph (A) requirements support the current self-assessment rating. Data standards from organizations such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the American National Standards Institute, the Open Geospatial Consortium, and the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) are applied through the Census Bureau's geographic programs that create and maintain 33 NGDAs. For this reporting period, 33 Census NGDAs and one (1) NGDA from the International Boundary Commission (United States Canada Boundary NGDA) comply with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-119 guidance on the use of voluntary consensus standards (VCS) for metadata (34 total). The International Boundary and Water Commission (International Boundary United States Mexico Minute 315 NGDA) complies with ISO and/or FGDC data standards. The BLM NGDA (BLM National Administrative Unit Boundary Polygons and Office Points) complies with "agency policies, directives, or guidelines related to geospatial data standards" and maintains the minimum content for NGDA metadata recommended by FGDC. Standards compliance was not reported for the HUD NGDA (HUD Entitlement Grantee Jurisdiction) in the NGDA Baseline Standards Inventory. Census Bureau also complies with the directive to "report to [National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)], no later than December 31 of each year, about the nature and extent of agency participation in the development and use of voluntary consensus standards from the previous fiscal		

Table 4. GDA Section 756(b)(3)(A) Requirements and Self-Assessment Criteria.

NGDA Baseline Standards Inventory

FGDC conducted an NGDA Baseline Standards Inventory capturing details about all 173 NGDA Datasets across the 18 NGDA Themes. The inventory was generated using an online survey, which establishes an updateable, repeatable process. This section reflects data that was input between August 31 and February 8, 2021. An FGDC NGDA Summary Dashboard⁸ reflecting the inventory results is publicly available and allows users to sort by Theme and Department/Agency.

Accomplishing the baseline inventory represents progress towards meeting the GDA requirements for "assessing existing standards." The details collected on current use will facilitate the assessment of necessary data and metadata standards, schema, and classifications in order to identify needed standards and facilitate nationwide population of the NGDA data theme to meet the needs of users.

An <u>NGDA Baseline Standards Inventory Companion Guide</u>⁹ was developed to document the process and establish a comprehensive list of categories, definitions, and identified standards, including existing FGDC Endorsed Standards. The survey allowed NGDA Dataset Managers to provide consistent input from a set of picklists and to also contribute other standards in use or under consideration.

A significant effort, the inventory meets several requirements of the GDA, the <u>Federal Data Strategy 2020 Action Plan</u>¹⁰ for Action 10, and <u>Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018</u>.¹¹ It also furthers the 2018 President's Management Agenda goal of "data, accountability, and transparency to provide the tools to deliver visibly better results to the public and hold agencies accountable..."

Inventory Status

The following table indicates the baseline standards inventory completion status for NGDA Datasets within the Theme.

	Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Theme Baseline Standards Inventory Status			
	All NGDA Dataset Managers or their designees within the Theme have completed the NGDA			
	Baseline Standards Inventory.			
/	Some NGDA Dataset Managers or their designees within the Theme have completed the NGDA			
	Baseline Standards Inventory.			
	No NGDA Dataset Managers or their designees within the Theme have completed the NGDA			
	Baseline Standards Inventory.			

Table 5. Status of NGDA Baseline Standards Inventory for the Theme.

NGDA Datasets Not Included in the Baseline Standards Inventory

The following table provides insight into why some NGDA Datasets within the Theme did not complete the baseline standards inventory.

NGDA Title	Brief Explanation for Not Participating
HUD Entitlement Grantee Jurisdiction	The Dataset Manager for the HUD NGDA did not submit a
	response to the Baseline Standards Inventory because they
	did not have adequate staff support or resources to meet the
	deadline.

Table 5a. NGDA Datasets Not Included in the NGDA Baseline Standards Inventory.

Initial Inventory Results

The preliminary results of the NGDA Baseline Standards Inventory provided in Figure 1 show a summary of the geospatial data and metadata standards in use by the Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Theme. Figure 2 shows the categories of standards associated with the datasets in the theme.

An assessment of the existing, anticipated, or needed standards per the GDA has not been undertaken yet within the FGDC NGDA Portfolio. The information collected during the baseline inventory will be analyzed and used in the future to assess these needs and develop "a plan to originate and implement needed standards with relevant community and international practices." Therefore, the statistical information provided in Figures 1 and 2 is not a reflection of standards required to support the data within this theme.

Milestone Summary Statistics: Tracking NGDAs for Implementation of Standards			
Theme - Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries			
Standards Reported for 36 of 37 NGDA			
	Metadata Standards	Data Standards	
NGDA Using Standards	34	36	
Percent Using Standards	94.4%	100%	
NGDA with No Standards	2	0	
Percent with No Standards	5.6%	0%	

Figure 1. This graphic provides the counts for metadata and data standards associated with the NGDA theme datasets reported in the NGDA Baseline Standards Inventory as of February 8, 2021.

Milestone Summary Statistics: Tracking NGDAs for Implementation of Standards ≡			
Theme - Governm	Theme - Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries		
Standa	ards Categorie	es for 36 of 37	' NGDA
Metadata	Structure	Attribute	Accuracy
34 (94.4% of 36 NGDA)	34 (94.4% of 36 NGDA)	34 (94.4% of 36 NGDA)	35 (97.2% of 36 NGDA)
Quality	Archive	Exchange	Service
34 (94.4% of 36 NGDA)	33 (91.7% of 36 NGDA)	33 (91.7% of 36 NGDA)	33 (91.7% of 36 NGDA)

Figure 2. This graphic provides the counts for categories of standards associated with the NGDA theme datasets as reported in the NGDA Baseline Standards Inventory as of February 8, 2021.

Methods Used by NGDA Agencies to Promote Standards for NGDA Datasets

Activities that directly support active participation or efforts by agencies to "provide leadership and facilitate development and implementation of standards associated with NGDA Datasets within the theme" include participation in subcommittees, working groups, international and national voluntary consensus standards bodies, international geospatial working groups supporting standards, and other federal and non-federal collaboration.

FGDC Subcommittees and Working Groups Associated with the Theme

<u>FGDC Subcommittees and Working Groups</u>¹² were established by FGDC to facilitate standards use for datasets within the Theme. In response to the requirements of the GDA, the FGDC is revisiting the current governance structure pending guidance from the revised OMB Circular A-16. When the revised FGDC structure is established, an efficient and streamlined chartering process will need to be developed. Until that time, FGDC subcommittees and working groups continue to operate under their current charters where they exist.

FGDC Subcommittees and Working Groups Associated with the Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Theme	Agencies Participating
National Boundaries Group	DOC-Census Bureau and DOI-USGS
	(Participating Agencies)
Federal Lands Workgroup	DOC-Census Bureau and DOI-USGS
Tribal Boundaries Workgroup	DOC-Census Bureau and DOI-USGS
Metadata	DOC-Census Bureau and DOI-USGS
<u>Standards</u>	DOC-Census Bureau and DOI-USGS

Table 6. Subcommittees and Working Groups Associated with the Theme.

National and International Voluntary Consensus Standards Body Participation

Agencies participate in the development, management and use of standards at both the national and international level. Examples include the International Committee for Information Technology Standards L1 Geographic Information Systems (INCITS L1), Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), International Standards Organization (ISO), ISO/Technical Committee 211 Geographic information/Geomatics (ISO/TC 211). These groups are comprised of national representatives that devise and update geospatial standards. In turn, these standards are then adopted and implemented by the agencies. Engagement with these standards bodies ensures that agencies have the opportunity to provide input into the standards development and change management processes to facilitate adoption.

National and International Voluntary Consensus Standards Bodies Groups Associated with the Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Theme	Agencies Participating
International Committee for Information Technology Standards L1	DOC-Census, DOI, Department of
Geographic Information Systems (INCITS L1),	Education, and OMB
Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)	DOC-Census, DOI, Department of
	Education, and OMB
International Standards Organization (ISO), ISO/Technical	DOC-Census, DOI, Department of
Committee 211 Geographic information/Geomatics (ISO/TC 211)	Education, and OMB
Federal Geographic Data Committee Governmental Unit Boundary	DOC-Census, DOI, Department of
Standard	Education, and OMB

Table 7. National and International Voluntary Consensus Standards Bodies Associated with the Theme.

International Geospatial Working Groups Supporting Standards

Agencies also participate in international geospatial working groups supporting standards (e.g. the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), Group on Earth Observations (GEO), etc.). These groups ensure that the geospatial standards are adopted homogeneously and provide the opportunity for international collaboration to resolve issues. These groups also support implementation of standards.

International Geospatial Organizations Supporting Standards Groups Associated with the Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Theme	Agencies Participating
Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)	DOC-Census, DOI, Department of
	Education, and OMB
International Standards Organization (ISO), ISO/Technical	DOC-Census, DOI, Department of
Committee 211 Geographic information/Geomatics (ISO/TC 211)	Education, and OMB

Table 8. International Geospatial Organizations Supporting Standards Associated with the Theme.

Other Activities Undertaken by Agencies to Support Standards

In addition to the organizations cited above, the implementation of standards for data within the Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Theme is supported through collaboration and engagement with agency teams, other federal and non-federal organizations, and/or participation in interagency groups, training programs, or other activities as highlighted below.

Description of Other Activities Undertaken to Support Standards	Agencies Participating
The OMB establishes and maintains the current standards for	DOC-Census and OMB
delineating metropolitan, micropolitan, and related statistical	
areas. OMB standards are found here: Federal Register:	
Recommendations From the Metropolitan and Micropolitan	
Statistical Area Standards Review Committee to the Office of	
Management and Budget Concerning Changes to the 2010	
Standards for Delineating Metropolitan and Micropolitan	
Statistical Areas. All Federal Register Notices are found here:	
Census Bureau Examples.	
DOI-USGS and DOC-Census Bureau Memorandum of	DOC-Census and DOI-USGS
UnderstandingRoads and Boundaries. Entitled "Memorandum of	
Understanding between the U.S. Geological Survey and U.S.	
Census Bureau for Coordination and Cooperation Pertaining To	
The Exchange and Use of Topologically Integrated Geographic	
Encoding and Reference (TIGER) Data in <i>The National Map"</i> to use	
TIGER roads and boundaries in The U.S. Topographical Series (US	
TOPO) and The National Map (TNM).	
"Annex—Exchange of Geographic Names and Codes Addition to	DOC-Census and DOI-USGS
Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Geological	
Survey and U.S. Census Bureau for Coordination and Cooperation	
Pertaining To The Exchange and Use of Topologically Integrated	
Geographic Encoding and Reference (TIGER) Data in <i>The National</i>	
Map" to collaborate on names for the U.S. Geographic Names	
Information System (GNIS) and incorporate GNIS National	
Standard Codes into the Master Address File (MAF)/TIGER and	
supporting databases extracted from them.	

Table 9. Other Activities within the Theme that Support Standards.

B. Nationwide Population of the Data Theme

GDA Requirement	implementation Data Asset data (i) include devel- institutions of hi and local goverr (ii) meet the nee (iii) address hum (iv) identify need the National Geo (v) expedite the	B)(B) provide leadership and facilitate the development and of a plan for nationwide population of the National Geospatial theme, which shall—oping partnership programs with States, Indian tribes, igher education, private sector entities, other Federal agencies, ments; eds of users of geospatial data; nan and financial resource needs; ds relating to standards, metadata for geospatial data within ospatial Data Asset data theme, and the GeoPlatform; and development of necessary National Geospatial Data Asset data
Lead Covered Agency Self-	themes; Check One:	☐ Meets expectations☑ Made progress toward expectations
Assessment		☐ Fails to meet expectations
Self-Assessment Summary Comments		
	 Governmental Units Theme Strategic Plan, FY2017 through FY2021 (10/1/2016): https://communities.geoplatform.gov/ngda-govunits/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Gov_Units_Theme_Strategic_Plan_20161001.pdf 	
	2019 (10/1/2019	Units Theme Implementation Plan (TIP) Activity Report for FY 9) https://communities.geoplatform.gov/ngda-portfolio/wp-s/2019/2019_Reports/Governmental_Units_Theme_Implement91031.pdf .

Table 10. GDA Section 756(b)(3)(B) Requirements and Self-Assessment Criteria.

Prior to the establishment of the GDA, the OMB Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance directed FGDC to establish management practices for the NGDA portfolio and to adopt and implement a coordinated and effective Federal geospatial asset management capability. In response, FGDC agencies developed documented portfolio management processes that included establishment of Theme Strategic Plans, Implementation Plans, and documentation of other efforts, such as the Lifecycle Maturity Assessments conducted on all NGDA Datasets.

This suite of processes and documentation provides a foundation for future development of the plan for "nationwide population of the NGDA data theme." This report section will provide elements from the Strategic Plans and citations to efforts that relate to meeting requirements under subparagraph B.

NGDA Datasets in the FGDC Portfolio

The NGDA Datasets and the managing covered agencies that currently populate the Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Theme are provided in *Table 2 Theme NGDA Datasets*.

Partnership Programs

This section provides a list of partners and partnership programs that are in place to support datasets in the Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Theme. Partnerships may provide insights to ensure available data meet the needs of users, identify or assist with justifications to ensure that human and financial resource needs are met, and provide additional information on standards for geospatial data and metadata, which have been covered in Section B above. Provided here is a list of "groups involved in the geospatial community" found in the GDA, Section 754(b)(C).

- Other Federal agencies
- States
- Local governments
- Regional governments
- Tribal governments
- Private sector entities
- Geospatial information user industries
- Professional associations
- Scholarly associations
- Nonprofit organizations
- Academia
- Licensed geospatial data acquisition professionals
- Other

Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Theme Partners and Partnership Programs	Managing Covered Agency
Boundary and Annexation Survey	DOC-Census
Participant Statistical Areas Program	DOC-Census
School District Review Program	DOC-Census
Boundary Quality Assessment and Reconciliation Project	DOC-Census
Boundary Validation Program	DOC-Census

Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Theme Partners and Partnership Programs	Managing Covered Agency	
Census Redistricting Data Program	DOC-Census	
National States Geographic Information Council	None	
National League of Cities	None	
National Association of Counties	None	
American Association of Geographers	DOC-Census	
Cadastre Theme	DOI-BLM	
International Boundaries Theme	DOS	
All State and Island Governments	None	
DOI-USGS	DOI	

Table 11. Theme Partners and Partnership Programs.

Lifecycle Maturity Assessments

FGDC agencies developed the <u>Stages of the Geospatial Data Lifecycle</u>¹³ as supplemental guidance supporting the original OMB Circular A–16. The matrix was established for agency use when developing, managing and reporting on NGDA Datasets.

The NGDA Lifecycle Maturity Assessment (LMA) process is based on those seven stages and was developed to document and support the lifecycle-based geospatial portfolio management of NGDAs. This approach is defined in OMB Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance, and the stages are consistent with the approach for Federal agency information asset management improvement outlined in OMB Circular A-130.¹⁴

The lifecycle matrix establishes a framework of standard terminology and processes for seven Geospatial Data Lifecycle stages (see Figure 3). The stages associated with the data lifecycle are meant to allow stakeholders to assess whether NGDA data production activities meet business requirements and utilize

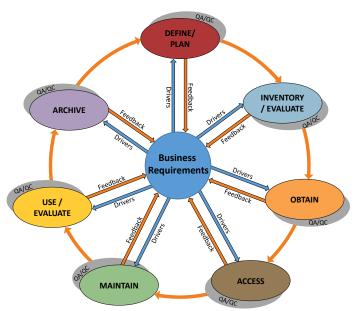


Figure 3. OMB Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance – lifecycle stages for developing, managing, and reporting on nationally significant datasets to meet business requirements.

best practices that enable shared or common services. The Geospatial Data Lifecycle is not intended to be rigidly sequential or linear. Quality assurance and (or) quality control (QA/QC) functions for data should be included at every stage of the Geospatial Data Lifecycle. Business requirements drive what needs to occur at each stage. This concept is illustrated in Figure 3 by the purple arrows that point from the business requirements circle to each lifecycle stage. The orange arrows that point to the business requirements circle represent the feedback loop that needs to occur at each stage to reassess the business requirements.

The expected outcomes of adopting this lifecycle management framework include:

- Timely and high-quality geospatial data to support business processes and operations.
- Stronger partnerships across all levels of government and, when appropriate, the private sector, to increase cost efficiency and return on investment; and
- Improved strategies for completing and maintaining nationally significant themes and datasets associated with OMB Circular A–16 to enhance services to citizens.

Lifecycle Maturity Assessments were conducted in 2015 and 2017 and resultant Theme LMA Summary Reports¹⁵ and Dashboards are available online through GeoPlatform.gov. While the LMA process was put on hold for 2019 following the enactment of the GDA, it is seen as a key component moving forward and will be analyzed as part of developing and implementing the plan for nationwide population of the NGDA data themes.

C. Establish Actions That Support the Goals and Objectives in NSDI Strategic Plan

GDA Requirement	Section 756(b)(3)(C) establish goals that support the strategic plan for the		
	National Spatial Data Infrastructure prepared under section 755(c);		
Lead Covered		☐ Meets expectations	
Agency Self-	Check One:		
Assessment		\square Fails to meet expectations	
Self-Assessment	Goal 1—Imple	ement the National Geospatial Policy and Governance	
Summary	Framework as	Defined by the Geospatial Data Act and Related Statutes and	
Comments	Policies:		
	 Governmental Units Theme LCA submitted reports for the Baseline Inventory of Standards and contributed to the Covered Agency Report for the FGDC's biennial Report to Congress. 		
	o The Theme	lead and Theme members participated in several GDA working	
		er Team, CA, LCA, and Baseline Standards Inventory).	
	 The Governmental Theme LCA submitted reports to the DOC Office of the Inspector General. 		
	Goal 2—Advance the Maturity of, Accelerate the Acquisition of, and Expand		
	the Sources of National Geospatial Data Assets (NGDAs) to Ensure that		
	NGDAs are Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable (FAIR):		
	o Report regularly and monitor the status of the NGDAs and their accessibility		
	on Data.gov and the GeoPlatform through the service status checker.		
	Goal 3 Ensure Open Standards-Based Interoperability To Enable Geospatial		
	Shared Services		
	 Governmental Units Dataset Managers conduct yearly metadata harvests to Data.gov and the GeoPlatform using shared services policies and metadata standards. 		
	 Census Bureau licensed twelve geospatial standards from the American National Standards Institute in November 2020. 		
	Goal 4—Enable and Promote Collaborative Governance and Partnerships to		
	Meet National Needs, Priorities, and Circumstances:		
	 DOC-Census and DOI-USGS conducted technical exchanges and updated their Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate on roads and boundaries data. 		
		tal Units Dataset Manager provides DOC-Census datasets to the nfrastructure Foundation Level Data (HIFLD) Open Data portal for	
		ncy management community: American Indian Areas, Census	
	Blocks with Housing Unit Count and Population, Congressional Districts,		
	Core-Based	Statistical Areas, Counties, Places, Roads, States, and Urban	
	Areas.		

Table 12. GDA Section 756(b)(3)(C) Requirements and Self-Assessment Criteria.

All FGDC NGDA data themes lead covered agencies are making progress toward the requirement to "establish goals that support the strategic plan for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure prepared under section 755(c)." FGDC developed and released a new national strategic plan for the development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) [GDA Sec. 755(c)], which was approved by the FGDC Steering Committee in November 2020. Covered Agency Geospatial Strategies [GDA Sec. 759(a)(1)], which will support the goals in the NSDI strategic plan, are due to be completed and submitted for agency approval by February 26, 2021, per FGDC guidance. For more information on the NSDI Strategic Plan, please visit https://fgdc.gov/nsdi-plan.

As part of the requirements under Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance, FGDC NGDA data themes have managed goals and objectives as part of their Strategic Plans. The existing <u>Governmental Units</u>, <u>and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Theme Strategic Plan</u> is located within the NGDA Portfolio Community.

In FY21, lead covered agencies, covered agencies, and NGDA Portfolio Management staff will initialize efforts to develop updated NGDA Theme Plans that will include actions that support the goals and objectives of the NSDI Strategic Plan and are in compliance with the GDA.

D. Addressing User Needs

GDA Requirement	Section 756(b)(3)(D) as necessary, collect and analyze information from users of geospatial data within the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme regarding the needs of the users for geospatial data and incorporate the needs of users in	
	strategies relati	ng to the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme;
Lead Covered		☐ Meets expectations
Agency Self-	Check One:	
Assessment		☐ Fails to meet expectations
Self-Assessment	Through quarte	rly meetings of the National Boundaries Group (NBG), and
Summary	bimonthly meetings of the Federal Lands Workgroup (FLWG), user needs are	
Comments	discussed through presentations and report submissions on special topics from	
	member agenci	es and other NGDA Themes and datasets, such as the Cadastral
	Theme, Internat	tional Boundaries Theme, and the Protected Areas Database of
	the United State	es (PAD-US). Participation from the public (i.e., non-member
	_	s, academia, commercial organizations) is encouraged for annual
	meetings with the NBG and the FLWG at the Esri Federal GIS Conference.	
		Jnits Theme NGDAs for Tribal areas, states, counties,
	congressional districts, and urban areas are represented on PAD-US maps and	
		at are accessed by recreational and environmental protection
	interest groups. Recently, Governmental Units Theme NGDAs were uploaded to	
	the Homeland Infrastructure Foundation Level Data (HIFLD) Open Data Portal to	
		n the emergency management community. Metrics on data
		user feedback are provided at HIFLD's quarterly meetings and at
		dback session. Recently, HIFLD reported that the Federal
		nagement Agency's HAZUS data tool output is reported by census
		District Court boundaries are delineated using Census Bureau's
	county boundar	ies accessed through HIFLD Open.

Table 13. GDA Section 756(b)(3)(D) Requirements and Self-Assessment Criteria.

Multiple activities are underway across FGDC agencies and other organizations to collect and analyze user needs information. Appendix A includes an array of relevant geospatial data use cases gathered by FGDC for future analysis as part of the "development and implementation of a plan for nationwide population of the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme."

The ultimate goal will be to establish a collection of NGDA use cases, user needs assessments, and other activities that highlight how strategies, goals, and objectives for the NGDA data theme are being supported, and that demonstrate the diversity of users and their needs.

In addition to Appendix A, the table below provides references and links (if available) to theme-specific use cases, user needs assessments, workshops, and summits that document ongoing efforts by agencies to understand and meet user needs in the delivery of geospatial data within this theme.

Governmental Units, and Administrative and Statistical Boundaries Theme Use Cases, User Needs Assessments, Workshops and/or Summits	Participating Covered Agencies	
Boundary and Annexation Survey Workshops and Webinars	DOC-Census	
School District Review Program Workshops and Webinars	DOC-Census	
Boundary Validation Program Webinar	DOC-Census	
Participant Statistical Areas Program Webinars	DOC-Census	
National States Geographic Information Council Conferences and	DOC-Census	
Meetings		
National League of Cities Conferences and Meetings	DOC-Census	
National Association of Counties Conferences and Meetings	DOC-Census	
U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Census Bureau collaborate on national	DOC-Census and DOI-	
roads and boundaries data	USGS	

Table 14. Theme Use Cases, User Needs Assessments, Workshops, and Summits.

Appendix A: NGDA Use Cases

Contents

Federal Data Strategy Use Cases

NGAC Use Cases

HIFLD Use Cases

GDA Communications Working Group Use Cases

Joint HIFLD/GeoPlatform Feedback Sessions

Other Types of User Feedback and Use Cases

Introduction

GDA Section 756(b)(3)(D) calls for "as necessary, collect and analyze information from users of geospatial data within the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme regarding the needs of the users for geospatial data and incorporate the needs of users in strategies relating to the National Geospatial Data Asset data theme." As noted in the Lead Covered Agency (LCA) NGDA Theme Annual Performance Report, multiple activities are underway across FGDC, its agencies, and other organizations to collect and analyze user needs information. Use cases summarize both broad and specific user requirements and application of geospatial data in addressing those needs, including the use of NGDA Datasets.

In support of Section 756(b)(3)(D) requirements, existing use cases that may be relevant for NGDA datasets have been gathered and compiled from multiple sources as documented in this Appendix. These existing use cases will be evaluated for use as resources for the themes, and planning to meet GDA requirements for future plan development. Additionally, others not included in this resource list may also be included in the LCA reports.

Federal Data Strategy Use Cases

Resources.data.gov was originally launched in July 2019 as an effort by the Office of Management and Budget, the Office of Government Information Services of the National Archives, and the General Services Administration to provide an online repository of guidance and tools to implement the OPEN Government Data Act and the Federal Data Strategy. Below is a selection of articles, use cases, and proof points describing projects undertaken by data managers and data practitioners across the federal government.

- Agencies Mobilize to Improve Emergency Response in Puerto Rico through Better Data
- Department of Transportation Case Study: Enterprise Data Inventory
- Department of Transportation Model Data Inventory Approach
- FEMA Case Study: Disaster Assistance Program Coordination
- Helping Baltimore Volunteers Find Where to Help
- How USDA Linked Federal and Commercial Data to Shed Light on the Nutritional Value of Retail Food Sales
- Improving Data Access and Data Management: Artificial Intelligence-Generated Metadata Tags at NASA
- Investing in Learning with the Data Stewardship Tactical Working Group at DHS
- Open Energy Data at DOE

- Supercharging Data through Validation as a Service
- The Veterans Legacy Memorial
- <u>U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Census Bureau collaborate on national roads and boundaries</u> data

NGAC Use Cases

The purpose of the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) Use Cases was to develop materials and messages that tell the story of the critical importance of geospatial data, information, and tools to our Nation. These use cases were incorporated into the GDA report to Congress submitted in October 2020.

- North Carolina Flood Mapping Program
- Oregon Foster Care Initiative
- Response Outreach Area Mapper (ROAM) Project
- National Opioid Crisis
- Topeka, Kansas Pavement Management Program

HIFLD Use Cases

The FGDC Homeland Infrastructure Foundation-Level Data (HIFLD) Subcommittee is responsible for developing, promoting, and executing a coordinated strategy for acquisition and/or enhancement of homeland infrastructure geospatial information for HIFLD mission partners. To foster collaboration and understanding of how the HIFLD Open and Secure datasets are being used to support federal/state/local officials and non-governmental partners across the Homeland Defense (HD), Homeland Security (HLS), National Preparedness – Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response and Recovery (NP-PPMR&R) mission communities, the following real-world examples – "use cases" – were gathered in 2018 and 2020.

Although not exhaustive, these examples represent HIFLD's significant impact to a wide range of uses and essential missions. Many of these use cases involve NGDA Datasets, in addition to other mission-specific datasets needed by the community. The 2020 document, which also includes the 2018 use cases, can be accessed at the following link:

https://gii.dhs.gov/hifld/sites/default/files/2020-05/FGDC%20HIFLD%20Use%20Cases%202020.pdf

GDA Communications Working Group Use Cases

The FGDC GDA Communications Working Group created a template and a suite of use cases to provide examples of steps agencies can take to mature their geospatial programs to support their mission needs. Some are based on applied efforts and others are thoughtful considerations as discussed by the Communications Working Group. While the use cases are mission focused, they also provide traceability to the GDA and the 13 Covered Agencies responsibilities. These use cases serve as idea generators for GDA compliance. Once these templates are available on a public website, the link will be provided.

Joint HIFLD/GeoPlatform Feedback Sessions

The FGDC HIFLD Subcommittee organizes annual Joint HIFLD/GeoPlatform Feedback Sessions for the communities to collaborate and share uses, mission requirements, and other feedback. Topics often include general focus areas such as data management, metadata, tools, and demonstrations, and 'deep dives' into mission area uses such as transportation, healthcare, or natural disasters. The information

shared and discussed during these presentations and breakout sessions often involve NGDA Datasets. The proceedings from these meetings are posted online for review.

2018 HIFLD/GeoPlatform Feedback Session Presentations:

https://gii.dhs.gov/hifld/content/hifldgeoplatform-feedback-session-presentations

2019 HIFLD/GeoPlatform Feedback Session Presentations:

https://gii.dhs.gov/hifld/content/hifldgeoplatform-feedback-session-presentations-0

Other Types of User Feedback and Use Cases

Protected Areas Database Uses

https://www.usgs.gov/core-science-systems/science-analytics-and-synthesis/gap/pad-us-uses?qt-science support page related con=0#qt-science support page related con

Workshop Presentations

- Blueprint for 2022 Part 3: Working in the Modernized NSRS (Contains Case Studies)
- Industry Engagement To Modernize the National Spatial Reference System.PPTX
- Mapping User Perspective.PPT
- National Spatial Reference System (NSRS) Modernization Case Studies
- 2018 Industry Workshop Feedback
- Summary Notes for NSRS Mod Industry Workshop May 7-8 2018

Federal Register Notices

https://www.federalregister.gov/

Endnote References

¹ Geospatial Data Act of 2018:

https://fgdc.gov/gda/

² OMB Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance:

https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/omb/memoranda/2011/m11-03.pdf

³ OMB A-16 Supplemental Guidance Roles and Responsibilities:

https://fgdc.gov/policyandplanning/a-16/key-roles-and-responsibilities-a16-supplemental.pdf

⁴ NGDA Portfolio Community Site:

https://communities.geoplatform.gov/ngda-portfolio/

⁵ NGDA Data Theme Leads:

https://communities.geoplatform.gov/ngda-portfolio/ngda-theme-leads/

⁶ NGDA Portfolio Datasets:

https://communities.geoplatform.gov/ngda-portfolio/ngda-portfolio/

⁷ Suite of NGDA Portfolio Documentation:

Overview:

https://communities.geoplatform.gov/ngda-portfolio/overview/

NGDA Resources:

https://communities.geoplatform.gov/ngda-portfolio/resources/

NGDA Theme Community Sites:

https://www.geoplatform.gov/resources/communities/

NGDA Theme Resource Pages:

https://www.geoplatform.gov/ngda/

NGDA Meetings:

https://communities.geoplatform.gov/ngda-portfolio/meetings/

NGDA Dataset Portfolio:

https://communities.geoplatform.gov/ngda-portfolio/ngda-portfolio/

NGDA Theme Leads:

https://communities.geoplatform.gov/ngda-portfolio/ngda-theme-leads/

NGDA Executive Champions:

https://communities.geoplatform.gov/ngda-portfolio/ngda-theme-executive-champions/

NGDA Lifecycle Maturity Assessments:

https://communities.geoplatform.gov/ngda-portfolio/ngda-lifecycle-maturity-assessment/

NGDA Baseline Standards Inventory:

https://communities.geoplatform.gov/ngda-portfolio/ngda-baseline-standards-inventory/

NGDA Reports:

https://communities.geoplatform.gov/ngda-portfolio/national-geospatial-data-asset-ngda-reports/

FGDC Technical Guidance - Geospatial Metadata Resources:

https://fgdc.gov/technical-guidance

⁸ FGDC NGDA Summary Dashboard

https://geoplatform.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/67628c39d9314180bf1032e01b4 4fd43

⁹ NGDA Baseline Standards Inventory Companion Guide:

https://communities.geoplatform.gov/ngda-portfolio/wp-

content/uploads/Baseline Inventory/the companion guide achieving an ngda baseline standards inventory.pdf

¹⁰ Federal Data Strategy 2020 Action Plan:

https://strategy.data.gov/action-plan/

¹¹ Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018:

https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/4174

https://www.fgdc.gov/organization/working-groups-subcommittees

https://www.fgdc.gov/policyandplanning/a-16/stages-of-geospatial-data-lifecycle-a16.pdf

 $\underline{https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/OMB/circulars/a130/a130revised.}\\ \underline{pdf}$

¹⁵ Theme LMA Summary Reports:

https://communities.geoplatform.gov/ngda-portfolio/national-geospatial-data-asset-ngda-reports/?wdt column filter%5bYear%5d=2015&wdt column filter%5bReport%20Type%5d=Theme%20Summary%20Report

¹² FGDC Subcommittees and Working Groups:

¹³ Stages of the Geospatial Data Lifecycle:

¹⁴ OMB Circular A-130: